

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims.

Listing of Claims:

1-9. (canceled)

10. (original) A method for promoting internal healing, donor site healing, internal surgical wound healing, or healing of incisional wounds made during cosmetic surgery in a patient comprising administering an effective amount of a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or an active fragment or variant thereof to said patient.

11-12. (canceled)

13. (new) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide comprising an first amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to second amino acid sequence, wherein said second amino acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) amino acids Ala (63) to Ser (208) of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (b) amino acids Ser (69) to Ser (208) of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (c) amino acids Ala (63) to Ser (208) of the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. 75977; and
 - (d) amino acids Ser (69) to Ser (208) of the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. 75977
- wherein said polypeptide stimulates proliferation of epithelial cells.

14. (new) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 13, wherein said second amino acid sequence is (a).

15. (new) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 13, wherein said second amino acid sequence is (b).

16. (new) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 13, wherein said second amino acid sequence is (c).

17. (new) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 13, wherein said second amino acid sequence is (d).

18. (new) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 13 further encoding a Met residue at the N-terminus of said polypeptide.

19. (new) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 13 fused to a heterologous polynucleotide.

20. (new) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 19 wherein said heterologous polynucleotide encodes a heterologous polypeptide.

21. (new) A vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 13.

22. (new) A host cell comprising the polynucleotide of claim 13 operably linked to a regulatory sequence.

23. (new) A method of producing a polypeptide comprising

(a) culturing the host cell of claim 22 under conditions such that said polypeptide is expressed; and

(b) recovering said polypeptide.

24. (new) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide comprising an first amino acid sequence at least 97% identical to second amino acid sequence, wherein said second amino acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) amino acids Ala (63) to Ser (208) of SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) amino acids Ser (69) to Ser (208) of SEQ ID NO:2;

(c) amino acids Ala (63) to Ser (208) of the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. 75977; and

(d) amino acids Ser (69) to Ser (208) of the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. 75977

wherein said polypeptide stimulates proliferation of epithelial cells.

25. (new) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 24, wherein said second amino acid sequence is (a).

26. (new) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 24, wherein said second amino acid sequence is (b).

27. (new) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 24, wherein said second amino acid sequence is (c).

28. (new) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 24, wherein said second amino acid sequence is (d).

29. (new) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 24 further encoding a Met residue at the N-terminus of said polypeptide.

30. (new) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 24 fused to a heterologous polynucleotide.

31. (new) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 30 wherein said heterologous polynucleotide encodes a heterologous polypeptide.

32. (new) A vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 24.

33. (new) A host cell comprising the polynucleotide of claim 24 operably linked to a regulatory sequence.

34. (new) A method of producing a polypeptide comprising
- (a) culturing the host cell of claim 33 under conditions such that said polypeptide is expressed; and
 - (b) recovering said polypeptide.